

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 28

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE RAIL RUNNER EXPRESS FROM SANTA FE
TO LAS VEGAS.

WHEREAS, the "Rail Runner Express" is a commuter rail
service that runs between Belen and Santa Fe carrying people to
work, stores, entertainment and tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, to date, two phases of the Rail Runner Express
have been completed, and the availability of this commuter
option has reduced the burden on commuters of skyrocketing
gasoline prices; and

WHEREAS, phase one extended commuter rail service from
Belen to the town of Bernalillo in July 2006; and

WHEREAS, phase two extended commuter rail service from
Bernalillo to Santa Fe, completing the entire route from Belen

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1 to Santa Fe in December 2008; and

2 WHEREAS, the residents of Las Vegas would like to see the
3 Rail Runner Express extended even farther to provide rail
4 service for commuters and others to Las Vegas and the towns in
5 between; and

6 WHEREAS, many people commute from Santa Fe to Las Vegas
7 for employment at New Mexico highlands university, the Las
8 Vegas behavioral health institute, the Las Vegas medical center
9 and other employers; and

10 WHEREAS, many people who work in Santa Fe or Las Vegas
11 choose to live in Pecos, Rowe, Glorieta or other beautiful
12 locations and would benefit from commuter rail service; and

13 WHEREAS, Las Vegas is a growing community of almost
14 fourteen thousand residents in San Migual county, which has
15 more than thirty thousand residents; and

16 WHEREAS, the Rail Runner Express has met with great
17 enthusiasm and has been heavily patronized by commuters who
18 work in Albuquerque but live in outlying communities and by
19 commuters who work in Santa Fe and live in other communities;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the Rail Runner Express could serve additional
22 purposes other than commuter travel, such as providing access
23 to this beautiful region of the state for residents and
24 tourists as well as promoting convenient commerce between the
25 historic community of Las Vegas and the state's capital city;

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